

# **GEOHERMAL ENERGY**

**Things Are Heating Up!**





## *The Energy Policy Act of 2005*

## Subtitle B—Geothermal Energy

### SEC. 221. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “John Rishel Geothermal Steam Act Amendments of 2005”.

### SEC. 222. COMPETITIVE LEASE SALE REQUIREMENTS.

Section 4 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003) is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 4. LEASING PROCEDURES.

“(a) **NOMINATIONS.**—The Secretary shall accept nominations of land to be leased at any time from qualified companies and individuals under this Act.

“(b) **COMPETITIVE LEASE SALE REQUIRED.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise specifically provided by this Act, all land to be leased that is not subject to leasing under subsection (c) shall be leased as provided in this subsection to the highest responsible qualified bidder, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) **COMPETITIVE LEASE SALES.**—The Secretary shall hold a competitive lease sale at least once every 2 years for land in a State that has nominations pending under subsection (a) if the land is otherwise available for leasing.

“(3) **LANDS SUBJECT TO MINING CLAIMS.**—Lands that are subject to a mining claim for which a plan of operations has been approved by the relevant Federal land management agency may be available for noncompetitive leasing under this section to the mining claim holder.

## Geothermal Resources Leasing Programmatic EIS

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**The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the USDA Forest Service (FS) are preparing a joint Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to analyze and expedite the leasing of BLM- and FS-administered lands with high potential for renewable geothermal resources in 11 western states and Alaska.**

### What are the objectives of the PEIS?

1. Programmatically assess the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of leasing, exploration and development of geothermal resources on high priority areas (critical locations) on BLM- and FS-administered lands in order to expedite leasing. Additional environmental documentation would be required prior to actual exploration drilling and development.
2. Amend BLM and FS Resource Management Plans/Land Use Plans for geothermal leasing, based on PEIS analysis.
3. Provide analysis so site-specific leasing decisions can be made for the pending backlog geothermal lease applications received by the BLM and FS prior to January 1, 2005.

### What is the Project Schedule?

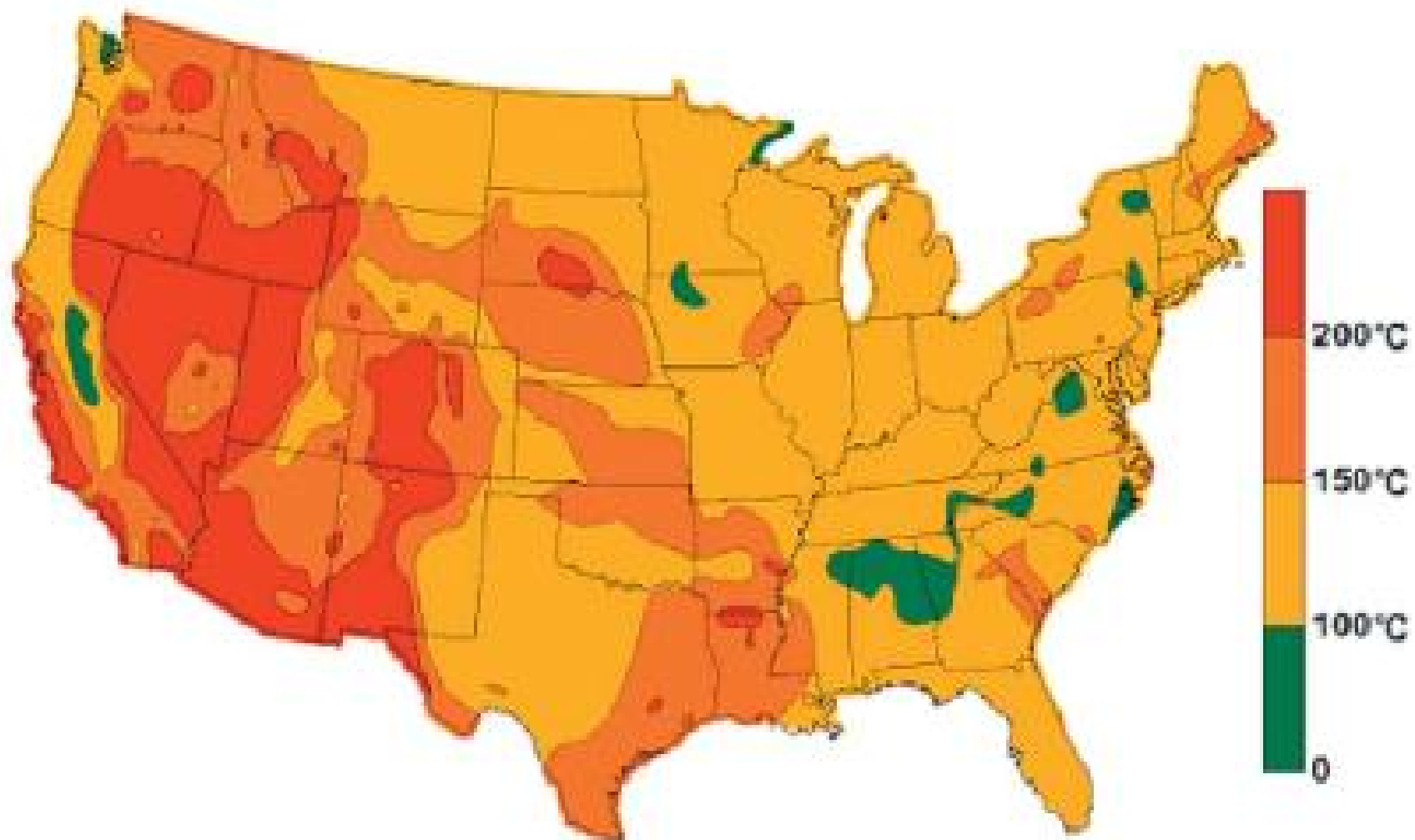
Tentative major milestone dates for the PEIS are:

[Public Scoping meetings](#) - July 2007  
Draft PEIS for public review/comment - Winter 2007/2008  
Public hearings - Winter 2008  
Final PEIS for public review - Fall 2008

### What's New

- [Notice of Intent](#)
- [Press Release](#)

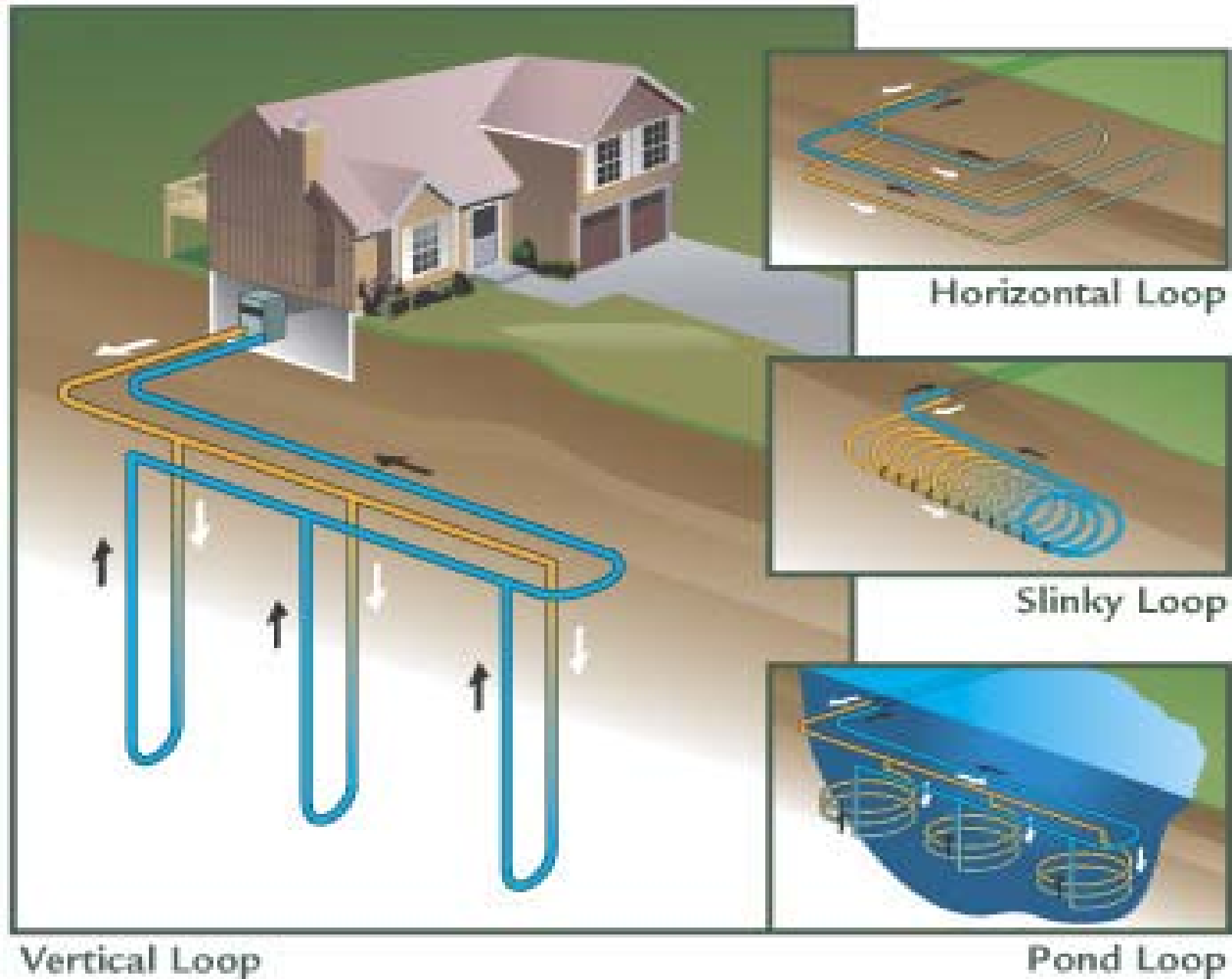




Geothermal temperatures at 6 kilometer depth.

[www.ases.org/climatechange](http://www.ases.org/climatechange)

# Geothermal Energy for the Home





**NPS units containing significant thermal features as defined by the  
1988 Amendments to the Geothermal Steam Act  
located in the geographic area encompassed by the  
Bureau of Land Management/U.S. Forest Service  
Geothermal Leasing Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement:**

**Lower 48**

Crater Lake National Park  
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area  
Lassen Volcanic National Park  
Mount Rainier National Park  
Yellowstone National Park

**Alaska**

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve  
Bearing Land Bridge National Preserve  
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve  
Katmai National Park  
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve  
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve



# **1988 Amendments to the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970**

“(b) The Secretary shall maintain a monitoring program for those significant thermal features listed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

“(c) Upon receipt of an application for a geothermal lease the Secretary shall determine on the basis of scientific evidence if exploration, development, or utilization of the lands subject to the geothermal lease application is reasonably likely to result in a significant adverse effect on a significant thermal feature listed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.



